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Date of Deposit 4-14-03

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application	:	Group Art Unit: 3626
Stevens	:	
Serial Number: 09/506,432	:	Examiner: Nguyen, Dinh X
	:	
Filed: February 17, 2000	:	Attn. Docket No.: Hartford-PPL
	:	Formerly 032795-001
Title: Workers Compensation Information Processing System	:	Date: April 14, 2003
	:	

Commissioner for Patents
Box Fee
Washington, D.C. 20231

ELECTION

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APR 18 2003
GROUP 3600

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed on February 13, 2003, in the above-captioned application. A petition for a one-month extension of time is enclosed herewith.

It is noted that the rejection of claims 1-54, made in the Office Action mailed on August 27, 2002, has been withdrawn.

Claims 1-54 now stand subject to a restriction or election requirement. In support of the requirement, the examiner states:

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

I. A system with software to verify matching of worker's compensation claim number, claims 1-15;

II. A system with electronic report filtering software adapted to direct an electronic report as a result of a predetermined criteria, claims 16-21;

III. A system with software for renaming an attachment file according to an attachment file name specification and allowing an attachment file to be matched to a bill without requiring the attachment file to be opened, claims 22-41;

IV. A system with software for renaming files having file header information and permitting linking, routing & tracking of file attachments with a primary document, claim 42;

V. A system with software for identifying batches of files for routing which uses an accompanying batch document that identifies attachments & includes specifications for delivery, linking & tracking, claims 43 and 44;

VI. A system with software for electronic production of injury medical reports, determining a claim number, including a bill submission system & payment status system, claims 45-50;

VII. A system with software for accessing & providing injury reports, claim 51;

VIII. A system having a bill submission system and a payment status system which allows the checking of submitted bills' status, claim 52; and

IX. A system having a bill status software with a web page which allows inquiries on a bill status and input of standardized responses.

The examiner further states that there are currently no generic claims.

In response thereto, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, invention I, claims 1-15 for prosecution on the merits.

The restriction is traversed because it is unsupported in accordance with MPEP 808.01(a). According to MPEP 808.01(a), "where there is a relationship disclosed between species, such disclosed relation must be discussed and reasons advanced leading to the conclusion that the disclosed relation does not prevent restriction, in order to establish the propriety of restriction." According to page 6, line 23 through page 8, line 6, the system of the present invention is made up of a number of discrete components or sub-systems, i.e., claims

verification, early notice of loss, attachment processing, report triage system, payment status inquiry, electronic remittance advice, electronic report of treatment and treatment plan, electronic bill submission, and electronic fund transfer system. The species are related by the fact that they make up a business system that provides an end-to-end Internet connectivity solution for the worker's compensation industry which eliminates phone, fax and mail transactions involved in medical treatment reporting, claims for payment, and payment for the services rendered.

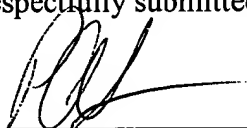
The examiner, however, has not identified how this disclosed relation does not prevent restriction. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Should there be any questions or other matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

A check in the amount of \$110.00, representing the fee for the earlier mentioned petition, is enclosed herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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PAS

PTN\33567.2

such a broad class

this is not a class
it's a group of
individuals

divergent
nature of
each species
is clear

broken
bill
re-naming
software

listed in each
species as
identified
Hoff -